

West Students Raise \$500 for Fountain

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WEST IS FIRST . . . Student leaders Susie Griffiths and Paul Johnson (second from right) proudly present a check for \$500 to Mayor Albert Isen (right) for the proposed Civic Center Fountain. Presented on behalf of the West High School student body, the money was raised largely through the sale of candy. At left is the students' advisor, James Krembas, student activities director. Although West is the smallest of the Torrance high schools, it was the first to make a contribution toward the fountain project. (Press-Herald Photo)

School Board Member Will Retire in April

William Hanson To End Service With Two Terms

At least one member of the Torrance Board of Education has indicated he will seek a new term at the April 15 school election.

Nomination papers for Burton E. Belzer were picked up this week, according to the office of County Registrar-Recorder Ray Lee. Belzer has not filed his completed papers.

One incumbent, however, will not seek re-election.

W. J. Hanson reaffirmed his intention not to seek a third term in an interview with the Press-Herald yesterday.

Belzer was appointed to the board to replace Dr. Donald E. Wilson, who was ejected to the City Council in April, 1968.

Deadline for filing applications for candidacy is Thursday, Feb. 20. Nomination papers must be picked up from the County Registrar-Recorder, Room 200, 808 N. Spring St., Los Angeles. They must be returned by 5 p.m. Feb. 20.

Questions about qualifications for the election should be directed to the County Registrar-Recorder or to Dr. Louis Kaplan, assistant superintendent of the Torrance schools, special services.

Deadline for voter registration for the April 15 election also is Feb. 20.

Council Groups Revived

Councilmen went back to their old system of establishing standing committees to study various council problems at their meeting Tuesday.

By a vote of 4-3, the local lawmakers voted to abolish the temporary committee system they have tried for the past several months.

Under the system just abolished, councilmen appointed committees of their membership on a rotating basis, assigning a temporary committee to each problem that developed, and disbanded that committee after the report was completed.

Voting for the old standing committee system were Councilmen Jay Beasley, Ross Sclarotta, Ken Miller, and Donald E. Wilson.

Councilman William Uerkwitz said he objected to the standing committee system because members will be appointed on a seniority basis.

Student Leaders Vote Funds for Fountain Project

The students of West High School surprised the Torrance City Council Tuesday by pledging a whopping \$500 toward the proposed Civic Center Fountain. And they made good on their pledge two days later by presenting a check for the sum to Mayor Albert Isen and Councilman William J. Uerkwitz.

Under the leadership of their Student Council, the high school students raised the money during the past few weeks primarily through the sale of candy. They made West High the first high school in Torrance to contribute toward the fountain project.

It should be noted that West High is also the smallest of the Torrance high schools.

Leading the students in the presentation of the \$500 were Paul Johnson, student body president, and Susie Griffiths, senior class president.

Other student leaders participating in the ceremonies were Terry Ferguson, junior class president; Craig Kelley, sophomore class president; Cheryl Nakaji, secretary of publicity; Robert Dobson, secretary of honors.

Laurie Hamlin, secretary of correspondence; Marilyn Hart, secretary of records; Kathy Long, secretary of club coordination; and Kim Hoops, secretary of morale.

Also on hand was faculty advisor James Krembas, student activities director.

Councilman Uerkwitz, father of the fountain project, praised the students' hard work and energy in raising the funds, commenting, "This is about the most adult approach you could make to civic responsibility."

Uerkwitz termed the students "my kind of teenagers" and declared that they represent the majority of decent young people, not the minority.

The fountain will become the focal point of the Civic Center complex on Torrance Boulevard. It will shoot water 30 feet in the air from a reflection pool 30 by 40 feet in size.

Total cost of the project will be about \$20,000. The city will donate \$10,000 to the cause, and the remaining \$10,000 must come from local club and school donations.



JACK BROKKEN, M.D. Starts Second Term

Brokken To Lead Doctors

Jack Brokken, M.D., has been installed for a second term as chief of the medical staff at Torrance Memorial Hospital.

Richard A. Sullivant, M.D., former chief of staff and now medical director at the hospital, served as installing officer at the annual banquet.

Dr. Brokken, an internist, received his medical degree from the University of Minnesota and served his internship at Mercy Hospital in San Diego. He completed his residency at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Long Beach.

A MEMBER of the medical staff at Torrance Memorial Hospital since 1960, he served a term in 1966 as secretary and in

(See BROKKEN on A-3)

'Blondie' Sacks Up \$14,000

A bandit which police have nicknamed "Blondie" robbed a Gardena bank of \$14,000 Thursday afternoon after holding the manager as a hostage for a few minutes.

Gardena police said the bandit ordered Manager Scott Fetters into the bank vault and demanded \$50,000. After stuffing \$14,000 into a bag, he then forced Fetters to the bank's rear door. The manager was released unharmed a few moments later.

Southland agencies say the bandit may be the one sought for a series of San Fernando Valley bank robberies.

He has been described as being 5-feet-6 tall, having blond hair, and being between 25 and 30 years old. He fled the Gardena bank in a late model, gold-colored vehicle.

Retarded Youngsters Park Bid Denied By City Council

Some 30 irate neighbors turned out in force for City Council meeting Tuesday to see councilmen vote down a plan to build a park for the retarded.

The park, which would have included offices and a six-foot, peripheral chain link fence, was to have been located at 17929 Amie Ave., at the corner of 180th Street.

Requesting the site for use as a park was the Southwest Association for Retarded Children. The association had sought a zoning variance to permit park and office construction in the single-family neighborhood.

IN TURNING down the request unanimously, the council

upheld the Planning Commission, which had also voted for denial.

Councilmen and residents of the park area agreed that they supported the cause of the retarded, but felt the park would be incompatible with the residential area.

Neighbors also complained that the park could not realistically be shared by neighborhood children. Mixing these children with retarded people as old as 27 would not be a good situation, they said.

SPEAKING in favor of the plan were LeVane Forsythe, president of the Southwest Association for Retarded Children,

and Lester Foster, principal of Columbia School for the retarded.

Foster pointed out that their work with the retarded would save these young people from being institutionalized all their lives, at a great expense to the taxpayer. He said the retarded can be trained to live at home and perform simple tasks for a living.

Reserve Program To Begin

The Police Reserve program at the Torrance Police Department has received enough community support to merit a new series of training classes.

Thirteen area residents have been checked out for the new series, which begins Feb. 3. Dozens of hours of class time will be devoted to the study of such subjects as laws of arrest, penal code, narcotics, first aid, fire arms, and many more.

Most training classes will be held Tuesday and Thursday nights for 3 hours each. When trainees complete the course, they will purchase uniforms at their own expense and volunteer several hours per week aiding Torrance police.

Area residents interested in the program should contact the Torrance Police Department.

Driver Training Class Planned

A nine-week driver instruction course will begin at the Gardena Community Adult School, 1301 W. 182nd St., Monday, Feb. 3.

Ralph Selk, principal, said the course will include both classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction.

Steve Alverson Wins Top Carrier Honors



STEVE ALVERSON Top Carrier

A Torrance boy who will celebrate his 12th birthday next St. Patrick's Day was named Carrier of the Month for December today by Press-Herald Circulation Manager Clint Davey.

Steve Alverson, 11-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Alverson of 19206 Entradero Ave., was honored as the Press-Herald's top carrier in the monthly Junior Dealer contest.

Steve, a sixth-grade student at Towers Elementary School, is active in the Tordondo Little League. He played with the Braves last year and hopes to land a spot with the Cubs for the coming season. He also lists model building as his hobby.

One of four children, he is the only boy in the family. His sisters are Diana, 18; Michelle, 16; and Karl, 10. Steve's father is western regional manager for the Brunson Instrument Co.

The family has lived in Torrance for 12 years.



INSPECT FACILITY . . . Inspecting El Camino College's new parking structure over Dominguez Channel and adjacent to Alondra County Park are (from left) C. W. Stine, dean of business affairs for the college; Dr. Stuart Marsee, president of the college; Supervisor Kenneth Hahn; and Student Body President Vahan Hovsepian. The parking structure was made available through cooperation between El Camino College officials and Supervisor Hahn to put the flood control channel right-of-way to use.

Evening Classes Readied

North and South high schools will be the sites of various evening adult class offerings this term under the auspices of the Torrance Unified School District.

North High School will host adult courses in typing and shorthand during the spring semester. Typing will be taught on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:45 to 9:45 p.m. in Room 220 beginning Feb. 4.

Shorthand classes will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:45 to 9:45 p.m. in Room 330 beginning Feb. 3. The latest equipment will be used in increasing skills in dictation and transcription, preparing students for civil service examinations requiring shorthand.

ALTHOUGH both courses are designed for the beginner, they

(See CLASSES on A-3)

Cars Crash Head-on; Six Are Hospitalized

Break failure has been tentatively blamed for a head-on collision Tuesday night which totally demolished the front ends of two cars and sent six persons to the hospital.

Police said a car driven by Samuel D. Prouty, 19, of 5325-D Lorna St., was heading south on Anza Avenue when it swerved across into northbound lanes.

The vehicle collided with a car driven by Robert G. Marlow, 38, of 22913 Evayn Ave.

Prouty complained of back pain. His two passengers, Scott Hoyer, 21225 Anza Ave., and Robert Mageson, 21505 Anza Ave., sustained minor injuries.

Marlow sustained chest injuries, while his passengers, Marshall Koval, 21519 Red Beam Ave., and John Summers, 21405 Grant Ave., suffered minor injuries.

Police recommended Prouty be cited for defective brakes in his car.